

Appln No. 09/955,693
Amdt date December 22, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner. Claim 13 has been amended. Claims 1-12 and 21-22 have been canceled. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 13-20 and 23.

In the second Supplemental Advisory Action dated December 2, 2005, the Examiner continued to reject claims 1-21. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 23 contained allowable subject matter.

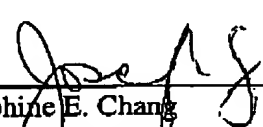
Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22. Claim 22 has been canceled. Claim 13 is therefore now in condition for allowance.

Claims 14-20 and 23 are also in condition for allowance because they depend directly or indirectly on claim 13, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 13-20 and 23.

Respectfully submitted,
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